

contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Evan Joseph Heronemus for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 632 I was unable to be present for H.R. 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN MEMORY OF RONDAL K. MOORE

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Rondal K. Moore, of Aurora, Colorado, who passed away from a stroke on November 12th at age of 71. Rondal was born on May 25, 1942 in Fort Smith, Arkansas, the son of Clarence Delmer and Golden Viola Moore. In 1961, he graduated from Wheeler County High School in Fossil, Oregon. He went on to serve in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War on board the aircraft carrier USS *Coral Sea* as well as duty in Rhode Island at the Naval War College. In the spring of 1963, he married Nancy E. Heilly and on March 29th of this year they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Rondal began working for United Airlines in 1966 and spent decades in the field of de-icing until retiring in 2003 after 37 years. He held multiple patents for inventions in both information and system operations as well as software products used in the process of de-icing. His inventions and patents are still in use today in order to help determine check time for de-icing fluid, which allows for safe airline travel during inclement weather. My thoughts and prayers go out to his surviving family member including his wife of 50 years, Nancy Moore, of Aurora, Colorado; his son, Jason Moore, of Chula Vista, CA; his daughter, Sondra LaValley, of Aurora, CO; and his sister, Carol Ellis, of Kennewick, WA.

HONORING LINDA HOWARD JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of an unsung hero. Often times the neighbor next door goes unnoticed because of their ability to quietly go about life helping others without any nudge

from the outside to do so, the only nudge they get is the one that is in their heart to do what needs to be done. Mr. Speaker her name is Linda Howard Johnson and she lives in my district, Mississippi Second Congressional District. People in the community call her "Mama or Grandma."

Linda's start in life helped to shape the road she would travel later in life. As a young child, she was given away to be raised by a woman not related to her, Ms. Clara Tanzy. As a child she was constantly changing elementary schools and places to live. Her mother wanted change and a better life for them, so she chose Tutwiler, MS. Tutwiler was the answer they needed to end their roller coaster ride. Linda said it was the first time they were able to call an apartment home, just for the two of them. The stability gave her the grounding she needed to focus on school, being a child, being a little girl, making friends, and all those things important to a child.

Linda went on to attend Coahoma Junior College in 1978 and 1979, where she played basketball. The team won the regional level basketball competition among three states, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas and advanced to compete at the national level in Kansas City in 1979. In fact, she credits basketball for having taught her the importance of working together to achieve a common goal. As a mother, Linda instilled that same value in her children, Claretta, Lazerick, and Ramona and her grandchildren, Tashayla, Raileigh, Savannah, Diamond, and Courtney. All three of her children went to college and are successful in their careers. Linda's children are constantly trying to encourage their mother to move away but she reminds them, "Tutwiler grounded me and contributed to who I am, so this is my home and extended family, so I'm here to stay and help someone else." I'm pleased that Linda has decided to stay in Tutwiler and help someone in need.

Linda is constantly giving back in many ways. She is a teacher's assistant in the local school district and a bus driver for the district as well. In addition, Linda serves as a basketball coach for both the West Tallahatchie School District and the Tutwiler Community Education Center. She says what she does is not much but it is what she loves, "helping family," because Tutwiler is her family.

Linda has helped raise eight children. She comes to their aide because she recognizes those same issues that occurred in her life rising in theirs. So, she steps in to try and curtail those circumstances or prevent them from occurring in their lives. Linda recalls the story of child who came from a family that hadn't had a female to graduate from high school in twenty years, well Linda got involved in the child's life from birth and nurtured her through high school until she graduated, thus breaking the chain. She invited a 17 year old young man struggling to get out of the 8th grade, who had no one to guide him, so she invited him to come live with her only if he promised to finish school. The young man got his GED and that was better than nothing. In fact, there have been situations in which Linda has taken in entire families consisting of the husband, wife, and children. She says her house is not the Hilton but it's a home and she's willing to share it with those in need at no charge.

Linda says "I don't know, to me it seems like I need my community and my community

needs me and that's why I tell my children I can't move away, I'm at home and a mother's place is at home."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an unsung hero of the Tutwiler Community for stepping up to the plate and influencing many lives, Ms. Linda Howard Johnson.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JOHN TRUAX

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major John Truax of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Truax and his wife Alaina will be moving on from his present assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison and will soon be reassigned as a Cyber Operations Officer for the Army National Guard.

Army Congressional Liaisons officers provide an invaluable service to both the military and Congress. They assist Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices.

Following his graduation from Valley Forge Military College in May 2001, Major Truax was commissioned in the Army National Guard as an Engineer Officer. Major Truax reported to his first operational assignment with Charlie Company, 276th Engineer Battalion in West Point, Virginia where he served as a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer. Following a period of reorganization across the Army, Major Truax transferred branches and became a Military Intelligence Officer.

He left his civilian career in management and sales to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from May 2007 to June 2008. During his time in combat, John was responsible for providing security and Area Response Forces in Northern Kuwait as a staff officer in HHC, 2-183 CAV before assuming command of Alpha Troop. After returning from his tour in Kuwait, Major Truax remained on active duty and was assigned to the Army National Guard Materiel Programs Division in Arlington, Virginia. At the completion of an exceptional four years there, he was selected to represent the Army National Guard in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Legislative Liaison.

Major Truax's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work alongside Major Truax over the last year. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues in recognizing and commending his dedication to service and the sacrifices he and his family have made. We wish him, his wife Alaina, and their children Xander and Margaux all the best as they continue their journey to his next assignment in the United States Army.